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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

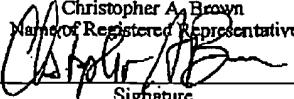
In re patent application of:)
Richard A. Hynes) Before the Examiner
Serial No.: 10/099,797) Daniel J. Davis
Filed: March 15, 2002)
SPINAL FIXATION SYSTEM AND) Group Art Unit: 3732
RELATED METHODS) October 2, 2006

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 3, 2006, please consider the following. Fees sufficient for consideration of the claims herein have been previously remitted. A request for an extension of time and the fee therefor are being concurrently filed. If any additional extensions of time or fees are deemed necessary for consideration of this paper, please grant such extensions or charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include issue fees.

<p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 2, 2006.</p> <p>Christopher A. Brown Name of Registered Representative  Signature</p> <p>2 October 2006 Date of Signature</p>
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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE
TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION
Serial No. 10/099,797
Atty. Dkt. No. 4002-2968
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